

1 **FRAMINGHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
2 **Desmarais Room – King Administration Building – March 3, 2015**

3  
4 **Present**

5 Beverly Hugo, Chair  
6 Dr. Eric Silverman, Vice Chair  
7 Heather Connolly, Clerk  
8 Michelle Brosnahan  
9 Andy Limeri  
10 Jim Stockless  
11 Don Taggart, III

12  
13 **Absent**

14 None

15  
16 **Also Present**

17 Dr. Stacy Scott, Superintendent  
18 Jordan Cline, FHS Student Representative  
19 Jackson Cote, FHS Student Representative  
20 Donna Wresinski, K-12 Fine and Performance Arts Department Head  
21 Sarah McKeon, FTA Unit A, Co-chair  
22 Lori Brockway, FTA Grievance Committee  
23 Lucia Laguarda, Principal, Hemenway Elementary School  
24 Liz Simon, Assistant Principal, Hemenway Elementary School  
25 Susan J. McGilvray-Rivet, Ed.D., Principal, Barbieri Elementary School  
26 Jennifer Guerra Faber, Assistant Principal, Barbieri Elementary School  
27 Dr. Ed Gotgart, Chief Operating Officer  
28 Dr. Sonia Diaz, Chief Academic Officer  
29 Dr. Grace Wai, Director of Curriculum and Staff Development  
30 Tricia Simeone, Administrative Assistant

31  
32 **AGENDA**

- 33 I. Meeting with the Public  
34 II. Student Highlights and Recognitions  
35 III. Recognition  
36 A. MEDITECH Donation  
37 IV. School Improvement Plans  
38 A. Hemenway Elementary School  
39 B. Barbieri Elementary School  
40 V. FY16 Budget  
41 VI. Discussion Items  
42 A. Curriculum Department Highlights  
43 VII. Action Item  
44 A. Proposed Draft 2015-2016 School Year Calendar  
45 B. The Education Cooperative  
46 VIII. Superintendent's Report  
47 A. Make-Up Snow Days

- 48 IX. Approval of Minutes
- 49 A. January 20, 2015 – Executive Session
- 50 X. Report of Committees
- 51 A. Academic Data Dashboard – Mr. Limeri
- 52 B. Buildings & Grounds/Capital Budget Subcommittee – Ms. Connolly
- 53 C. Finance Subcommittee – Ms. Hugo
- 54 D. District Wellness Committee – Ms. Hugo
- 55 E. MASC Legislative Liaison – Ms. Hugo
- 56 F. Policy Subcommittee – Dr. Silverman
- 57 G. Real Property – Ms. Connolly
- 58 H. Suburban Coalition – Mr. Limeri
- 59 I. TEC Board of Directors – Ms. Connolly
- 60 J. Delegate Assembly Resolution Task Force – Mr. Stockless
- 61 K. Communications and Public Relations Task Force – Mr. Stockless
- 62 VIII. Member Reports
- 63 IV. Bills and Payroll
- 64 X. Adjournment

65

66

67 **ACTION**

68 The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Beverly Hugo convened the School  
69 Committee with seven members present. The Chair announced that the meeting would be  
70 recorded and broadcast live with assistance from the School Committee’s FHS-TV Producers  
71 and Framingham Public Access TV. Earlier this evening, the SC met in executive session and  
72 heard a Level IV Grievance, discussed strategy for IBB, and approved the executive session  
73 minutes of January 20, 2015.

74

75 **I. MEETING WITH THE PUBLIC**

76 Chair Beverly Hugo noted that the first 15 minutes of every regularly scheduled meeting are  
77 reserved for members of the public who want to comment on a topic within the School  
78 Committee’s purview.

79

80 Ms. Sarah, McKeon, Kindergarten teacher at Brophy, would like to publicly encourage all staff,  
81 students and parents to complete the snow day survey. She requested that public clarification  
82 be given, regarding the survey language, as staff and parents were concerned that things were  
83 set in stone based on how the survey was worded. Ms. McKeon asked if teachers could receive  
84 surveys directly, so they can guarantee they have access.

85

86 **II. STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS AND RECOGNITION**

87 Mr. Cline said that HS senior Jake O’Brien took second place in the wrestling All States Nationals.  
88 He will be going on to the New England competition.

89

90 Ms. Wresinski, K-12 Fine and Performance Arts Department Head, is excited and proud to share  
91 that March is Art is Education month. They celebrate the eights habits of mind that are  
92 involved in studio work and how they connect to the common core. The Scholastic Art Awards,  
93 in Framingham, had many students enter and 11 students were awarded. Their work will be  
94 shown in Boston on March 13, 2015. The Framingham Visual Arts K-12 Art Show will be held at

95 the public library on March 11, 2015. The work will be on display for the entire month of  
96 March.

97  
98 Music in the Schools is in its fourth year with collaboration between Cameron, Fuller, Walsh,  
99 and FHS bands. For the second year in a row, two jazz bands at the HS will compete at the  
100 Massachusetts Jazz Education Festival on March 10 and 11 at the Reading and Algonquin High  
101 Schools. FHS students Paul Halberstadt and Eustaquio Dona were selected, for the second  
102 time, to perform as members of the All State Orchestra on March 19 and 20.

103  
104 The HS Drama Company performed Tennessee Williams play *Vieux Carre* at Brookline HS, and  
105 this is their 13<sup>th</sup> year in competition. The semi-finals will be held at FHS on March 14, 2015 and  
106 *Vieux Carre* will be performed at 3:30. FHS has made it to one of the final 42 schools out of  
107 115. Their benefit performance on will be at 7 p.m. on March 13, 2015 at FHS.

108  
109 Ms. Hugo thanks Ms. Wresinski and said she likes the newsletter that is sent weekly. Mr.  
110 Taggart said it is great to have a lot of activities going on in March. Dr. Silverman said he tips  
111 his hat to the FHS drama team, and Jackson Cote was fabulous in the play. The topics are  
112 emotionally compelling and gripping. Mr. Cote said he appreciates all of Ms. Wresinski's hard  
113 work, as both a teacher and the director. Mr. Cote also recognized several awards that the play  
114 won for acting, play set, costumes, and music. Mr. Cote said it was a great experience and was  
115 great to win the awards.

116  
117 **III. RECOGNITION**

118 **A. MEDITECH Donation**

119 The Framingham Public Schools Technology Department was the recent beneficiary of a  
120 \$15,000 donation from MEDITECH, Inc. of Westwood.

121  
122 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Taggart and seconded by Mr. Limeri that the School**  
123 **Committee publicly extend its thanks and appreciation for the generosity and support**  
124 **shown by MEDITECH, Inc. Discussion: Mr. Limeri said Meditech has been doing this**  
125 **for a long time and it is incredibly appreciated. He believes that they have donated**  
126 **over \$100K throughout the years. Dr. Scott said last year they enabled Framingham to**  
127 **go to the National Robotics competition on the West Coast and are hoping to send**  
128 **students again this year. Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Limeri,**  
129 **Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in favor; 7-0-0.**

130  
131 Ms. Hugo asked that the SC send a formal thank you to Meditech.

132  
133 **IV. SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS**

134 Under the Education Reform act, all public schools are required to develop school improvement  
135 plans. The plans must be developed and approved by their School Council. The School Council  
136 is comprised of staff members, parents and community representatives.

137  
138 Tonight, the School Committee heard a review of the School Improvement Plans for two  
139 schools. Each school has been allotted 20 minutes for its presentation and 10 minutes for  
140 questions from the School Committee.

142 Dr. Scott said that school improvement planning is one of the most important things they do  
143 around strategy formulation for the schools. The SIP's go through constant revision throughout  
144 the year. Dr. Scott said they will load the most current versions on the website and they are  
145 proud of the work of all the schools.

146

### 147 **1. Hemenway Elementary School**

148 Ms. Laguarda said she appreciates Dr. Scott discussing the formal review. She will summarize  
149 where Hemenway is at with their goals and stated that their biggest goal is to move back to a  
150 level 1 status. Their strengths are the 2014 MCAS scores and 78% were proficient or advanced  
151 in ELA, math, science and technology. This is their second year with a full readers' workshop.  
152 Two teachers have been certified in academic conversations and teach other staff through PD.  
153 Hemenway is aligning math to the common core and implementing Engage NY and iExcel.

154

155 Ms. Simon detailed the environmental challenges of the school and said they currently have  
156 574 students, which forces them to use space creatively. In 2004, modular classes were added  
157 but with an increase of 100 students, the infrastructure did not grow. The building's Wi-Fi is  
158 inconsistent and impacts both the teaching and learning aspect of the school day. Parking is  
159 another challenge but they continue to work with the Town, the School Department and the  
160 police to best manage the situation.

161

162 Ms. Laguarda said that since dropping to a level 2 school, they are looking at all students and  
163 the sub group of high needs students. They are planning to create strategy groups based on  
164 the student's needs. All strategies are aligned with the common core and PARCC. The students  
165 do a lot of peer observations and teachers observe other teachers as a part of their PD.  
166 Through the PD they discuss academic conversations and how to help students improve their  
167 thinking skills.

168

169 In regards to math, Ms. Laguarda said they rely more on the math coach. The rekenrek is well  
170 used by the students and they are able to move items on the rekenrek board. They also use  
171 shingling (to sit lower grouped students with mid grouped students and a teacher) which allows  
172 peer modeling, rich conversations, and for students to see how others approach the same  
173 problem. For science, they were well above 70% across all four categories. Ms. Laguarda said  
174 they are thinking about the advantages and successes with reader workshops, will build on  
175 reading non-fiction texts, and use read aloud times and academic conversations with students  
176 to build their scientific vocabulary.

177

178 Ms. Simon discussed the growth mindset and said Hemenway received extra credit points for  
179 decreasing the number of low-income students. In terms of the all students rating, their  
180 warning went up in both ELA and math and they hope for continued improvement. Ms.  
181 Laguarda said they use PD to explain what it is and how it affects their teaching. They perform  
182 staff check-ins three times a year and this is good for self-reflection. The teachers use academic  
183 conversations and work with all students. Ms. Laguarda noted that they no longer use the co-  
184 teacher model but one-on-one aides work with all kids.

185

186 Ms. Simon said the teachers wrote smart goals for student learning that stated students will  
187 make progress within one year. While reluctant at first, the teachers are working hard towards  
188 this goal. They want this to be achievable for all students and set high expectations for them.

189 They use data to continue making improvements and are confident that with continued support  
190 they will achieve success and return to a level 1 status.

191  
192 Ms. Hugo thanked the staff for their excellent work and dual assignment as administrators at  
193 the King School. Ms. Hugo asked if the PARCC test was written at Hemenway and Ms. Laguarda  
194 confirmed it was. Mr. Limeri said it is clear just how much time the staff spends outside of the  
195 school day together and that it is tremendous work and dedication. In regards to the multi-  
196 intelligence, Mr. Limeri asked if they were still doing that specific PD. Ms. Laguarda said they  
197 did a refresher last year and this year the PD is more of an academic refresher.

198  
199 Mr. Taggart thanked the staff for their hard work and asked if the improvement for Wi-Fi is in  
200 their request for next year and if they had a price tag. Dr. Scott said that Wi-Fi is in the update  
201 for all schools next year, as the demand for this service is increasing. Ms. Brosnahan said it is  
202 her first time hearing the concept of shingling and asked if other schools currently use it or plan  
203 on doing do. She also asked if they are thinking ahead on how to use this for science and other  
204 subjects. Ms. Simon said they have not shared shingling at principal or leadership meetings but  
205 are happy to do so. It is a research practice and their staff is delighted to use it.

206  
207 Dr. Scott said the underlying purpose for SIP's is to encourage schools to share strategies and to  
208 allow and encourage strategic flexibility. Core items are consistent in every building. Dr. Scott  
209 said Framingham has experienced high growth in test scores across the district.

210  
211 Mr. Gerry Bloomfield, Town Resident, said he was taken by the comment on the environment  
212 of the school and space constraints. There was no comment if the school can take on  
213 additional capacity and no clear picture as to the space relations to the current capacity. Mr.  
214 Bloomfield said he is concerned about the modular classrooms and what the learning is like in  
215 those rooms. He questioned what would happen in the next four or five years.

216  
217 Dr. Scott said in the long-range capital improvement plan, they have included improvement  
218 projects and Hemenway is next on the list of schools for redesign or rebuild. Dr. Scott said they  
219 are brimming at Hemenway but are trying to keep within reasonable limits while meeting the  
220 current needs and preparing for the future.

## 221 222 **2. Barbieri Elementary School**

223 Ms. McGilvray-Rivet thanked the committee for the invitation to share information about their  
224 school. Ms. McGilvray-Rivet said Barbieri is a two-way bilingual school that houses two special  
225 needs programs. A majority of the students are Latino (65.7%) and more the half of all students  
226 come from a home where English is the second language. Barbieri has had rapid enrollment of  
227 students over the last five years and have grown from 520 to 667 students. They are estimating  
228 around 690 students for the FY16 SY and this will make them the second largest school in the  
229 district. Ms. McGilvray-Rivet said the growth has put a strain on school resources but despite  
230 this growth, they are excited to have moved from a level 3 to a level 2 school.

231  
232 Ms. McGilvray-Rivet said they have met their target in two subgroups, including those with  
233 disabilities and white students. The Latino students were two points away from the target. All  
234 students learn in English and Spanish and they assess Spanish with a test called "Aprenda". On

235 the “Aprenda” this past year, 77% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders and 75% of 5<sup>th</sup> graders were on or above grade  
236 level, when compared to students nationwide.

237

238 Ms. Faber said five of the six goals are data driven. The first goal is to provide a safe, positive,  
239 and productive learning environment. Ms. McGilvray-Rivet said that in collaboration with Dr.  
240 Gressi at Framingham State University, teachers Rebecca Morrison and Katie Reynolds are  
241 chairs of the care committee, and co-authored an article that was just published. Ms. Faber  
242 said it discussed the grass roots of having PBIS in the school. Ms. McGilvray-Rivet said the  
243 second goal is to examine data to see where their strengths and weaknesses are. The literacy  
244 goals focus on the higher-level skills. They have developed school wide writing prompts and  
245 the staff gets together multiple times a year to analyze the data.

246

247 Ms. Faber said the third goal is to increase student achievement in conjunction with the math  
248 committee. This included the development of UPSS (understand, plan, solve, and success) and  
249 common assessments, to gauge where students are in grades K-5. Ms. McGilvray-Rivet said the  
250 fourth goal is to integrate students in sub needs programs and students who have significant  
251 challenges, so that they spend 25% of the day in an integrated setting. Students do more  
252 special projects together by bringing students from a larger class into the special needs  
253 classroom. Ms. Faber said the fifth goal is to increase the parent interaction at school events.  
254 Barbieri also continues to work on their website and through various surveys have found that  
255 parents want a Facebook page.

256

257 Ms. McGilvray-Rivet said the sixth goal was added last year and it looks to access data and a  
258 formal Spanish oral assessment, as they need to develop the student vocabulary in both  
259 languages. A number of teachers took an academic conversations class and they try to have at  
260 least one high quality conversation in each class, each day. This spring, they will begin a book  
261 study, specifically on building vocabulary and the vocabulary development.

262

263 Ms. Hugo thanked the staff for their presentation and excellent work as a dual enrollment  
264 school. In answering a question from Ms. Hugo about the last year of MELO testing, Ms.  
265 McGilvray-Rivet said they currently cannot assess students as MELO was taken away. Due to  
266 budgetary challenges, they cannot train teaches to perform the ELLOPA and SOPA testing. Ms.  
267 Hugo asked if it is in next year’s budget. Ms. McGilvray-Rivet said their goal was to pilot the  
268 tests in two grades this year, for a total of 10 teachers at \$279 per teacher. There is currently a  
269 one-year gap on testing and this will continue until they can train the staff.

270

271 Mr. Limeri asked why Aprenda is testing for reading and not writing. Ms. McGilvray-Rivet said it  
272 is for comprehension and vocabulary. The students are not tested in math as this is already  
273 assessed in the English language. Ms. McGilvray-Rivet said for the literacy goals, they assess  
274 writing but there is no standardized assessment in Spanish. Mr. Limeri asked what other needs  
275 they have and Ms. McGilvray-Rivet said they have significant needs in terms of supporting the  
276 enrollment and will need administrative support in the near future. Ms. McGilvray-Rivet said  
277 anyone is invited to visit the school at any time.

278

279 Dr. Scott said when schools grow as large as Barbieri, he wants to make sure they have the  
280 administrative support. He recognizes this being a challenge but it is not yet figured out. Part  
281 of what moved them forward is the growth scores moving dramatically. Dr. Scott said that

282 scores are averaged over a four-year period and if you have a lower year, it will take a couple  
283 years to live that down. Dr. Scott thanked the staff for their hard work and patience.

284  
285 Mr. Stockless said he loved seeing the increased parent involvement as a measureable goal.  
286 Family involvement is so strongly correlated with student outcomes and he thanks them. Ms.  
287 McGilvray-Rivet said their attendance at parent conference is averaging at 95-98% for more  
288 than one year, due to staff not giving up. Dr. Silverman said that in regards to the fifth goal of  
289 parent interaction, he would like to see a school Facebook page. Dr. Silverman asked if best  
290 practices to increase parent involvement, a strategy would be to make the environment more  
291 appealing to a father and should other schools think about this. Ms. Faber said they have  
292 parents who attend but they want more attention from the parents and academic  
293 conversations. Ms. McGilvray-Rivet said it is easier for working parents to meet in the morning,  
294 before school, and they have a good turnout.

295  
296 Ms. Connolly asked what type of constraints they have in their building. Ms. Faber said that all  
297 schools are being creative with space and they currently have no space available at Barbieri.  
298 They have to modify major events by grade, due to parking concerns. Ms. Faber said the  
299 playground is of concern, as it is old and used by the Town but they manage. Mr. Cline said he  
300 loves the goal of parent interaction and he volunteers every Friday. The maturity of the  
301 students is evident. Mr. Cline said he thinks the CARE program is important and hopes to see a  
302 PBIS program in all schools. Mr. Taggart said it has been wonderful to put his boys through the  
303 Barbieri School. He has been on the bus, worked in the classes, and his boys have thrived. Mr.  
304 Taggart thanked them for all their hard work.

305  
306 Dr. Scott recommended that the Committee vote to accept the School Improvement Plans for  
307 Hemenway and Barbieri Schools for the 2014-2015 School Year.

308  
309 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Limeri and seconded by Dr. Silverman that the School**  
310 **Committee vote to approve the 2014-2015 School Improvement Plans for Hemenway**  
311 **and Barbieri Elementary Schools. Discussion: None. Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms.**  
312 **Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Limeri, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in**  
313 **favor; 7-0-0.**

314  
315 **V. FY16 Budget**

316 Dr. Gotgart, Chief Operating Officer and Dr. Scott, Superintendent of Schools presented a draft  
317 FY16 School Department budget. The Public Forum on the budget will take place at the March  
318 17, 2015 School Committee meeting.

319  
320 Dr. Scott said this presentation is next in a long series of items to discuss the FY16 budget.  
321 There will be a public hearing on March 17, 2015 to discuss further. Dr. Scott said they are  
322 providing a broad summary of cost centers that they monitor and it shows increases or  
323 decreases from last year. He said they essentially roll forward all FY15 salaries by cost center  
324 and increase them by steps and lanes. These have been level funded since 2012 and the King  
325 salaries have been adjusted for new positions that are needed.

326  
327 Dr. Scott highlighted several expenses by line item, including the decrease in the  
328 Superintendent's budget and the HR funds decrease due to a 1-time purchase of the AESOP

329 software. Dr. Scott said that the Business Operations budget increased due to the Perini lease  
330 and B&G is up in regards to utilities, based on the actual usage in FY15. Transportation is up  
331 due to contractual increases and technology is up due to the agreement with the Town, based  
332 on the expectation they will continue the \$2M capital investment over the next four years. The  
333 SPED increases include tuition and circuit breaker cuts. Undistributed and unbudgeted salaries  
334 are the same as FY15 and they have used most of those funds already.

335  
336 Dr. Scott discussed the summary of all critical items, including the \$81M of overall salaries in  
337 the FY16 budget, the revised expenses budget of \$29M, additional salaries of just under \$3.6M.  
338 The basic figure rolling forward at level service, with adding steps and lanes, bring them to  
339 \$114.1M for FY16. Essential elements are things that need to be done to move forward and  
340 amount to \$802K. Dr. Scott also described the other critical categories, when all combined,  
341 puts the School \$1.1M over the Town's projected budget of \$114.9M. Dr. Scott said he will  
342 propose a budget of \$116M for FY16. Dr. Scott noted that these are the broad figures.

343  
344 Dr. Scott detailed positions from FY15 that were and were not filled. Dr. Scott noted that  
345 several positions were held off due to budget constraints. With money given last year, they  
346 accomplished the vast majority of things they had projected. The next chart in the packet is  
347 staffing requests for the upcoming year that were identified as necessary to maintain class size,  
348 enrollment needs, and to be in compliance with state/federal guidelines.

349  
350 The next chart in the packet identifies the critical categories of staffing requests for levels 1, 2,  
351 and 3. In answering a question from Mr. Limeri about the order, Dr. Scott said the figures are  
352 not in any particular order. To continue with programmatic needs of the district, these things  
353 will need to be done to move forward. They have grown in size but do not add any resources in  
354 those areas. Dr. Scott said they try to move each category forward every year and he  
355 understands the schools are strained. Dr. Scott said there is no way to put everything they  
356 need in the budget and he understands the Towns limitations.

357  
358 Mr. Limeri commented that he did not see salaries of the FTA in the detailed section of the  
359 budget. Dr. Scott said they are seen by cost center and that includes all salary figures. Mr.  
360 Limeri asked if this could be broken out by Unit and Dr. Gotgart said they can do that for the  
361 next meeting.

362  
363 Ms. Hugo said Governor Baker slashed \$225K off the kindergarten aides for this fiscal year and  
364 she asked Dr. Scott if he is planning any changes for the current kindergarten aide hours. Dr.  
365 Scott said the 9C cuts came in the last few weeks and amounts to \$68K. They are vetting  
366 options to manage this cut and are looking at a system wide reduction of all kindergarten aides  
367 as one strategy to make up for the deficit. They will work out a communication plan over the  
368 next several weeks so those affected will have knowledge of how they are moving forward.

369  
370 Ms. Hugo asked for clarification on the line item RC694, Gifted and Talented. Dr. Scott said that  
371 costs were shifted to the operational budget and a transfer of funds from one department to  
372 another. Dr. Scott said there are two staff positions funded out of this line item and there is no  
373 change in staffing, just a shifting of the actual budget item. Mr. Limeri said he would like  
374 additional backup. Dr. Scott said he was summarizing some main items tonight and will have  
375 explanation as to why things seem to be changing, at the next meeting. Dr. Gotgart said the



376 FY15 number was a budget number and they are comparing budget to budget. The staffing  
377 that was in place over the last 18 months has changed drastically, due to breakage or schools  
378 with high turnover. Mr. Limeri asked if this is the FTE and Dr. Gotgart said yes, there is minimal  
379 change in the FTE's. Dr. Gotgart noted one significant jump at King and said they have had to  
380 adjust for it.

381  
382 Ms. Hugo asked what other information is needed for the Committee. Dr. Gotgart said having it  
383 broken out by Unit and FTE will help give a better picture of the figures. Dr. Gotgart noted that  
384 in terms of FTE, there is virtually no increase from FY15 to FY16. Ms. Hugo asked if they know  
385 of any grants that will not be renewed and Dr. Gotgart said not that they are aware. Ms. Hugo  
386 asked if they can estimate the enrollment for next year. Dr. Gotgart said it is all at King and  
387 there are some pressures at other schools, but King is the safety valve. Dr. Scott said they  
388 expect to manage the numbers based on the growth they already see.

389  
390 Ms. Hugo asked if there is anything in the budget for increased slots at Blocks Pre-School and  
391 Dr. Scott said it is not in the operating budget. Ms. Hugo thanked Dr. Scott and Dr. Gotgart for  
392 their work and said it will be looked at in depth at the next finance subcommittee on Tuesday,  
393 March 10, 2015 from 6-7 p.m.

394

## 395 **VI. DISCUSSION ITEM**

### 396 **A. Curriculum Department Highlights**

397 Dr. Sonia Diaz, Chief Academic Officer, and Dr. Grace Wai were present to share District  
398 highlights.

399

400 Dr. Diaz thanked the committee for hosting them tonight. As part of the SIP's and the readers  
401 and writers workshops, they will take us through a pictorial journey of this process. On  
402 February 12, 2015, twelve principals went to McCarthy to share their observations and  
403 feedback for best practices around the district.

404

405 Dr. Wai said the Teachers Learning Alliance (TLA) did a walk through for teachers. The main  
406 focus was to watch, learn, document best practices, identify strengths, and recognize and  
407 celebrate successes. Dr. Diaz said they have been able to establish four laboratory classes and  
408 Dr. Wai said they are implementation readers' workshop district wide.

409

410 During the walkthrough, Dr. Wai said they observed the following: mini lessons, explicit  
411 instruction, accountable talk or academic conversations, student practice of new strategies that  
412 were taught, teachers listening for understanding, teaches offering extra help if needed, and  
413 students practicing how to find the main idea. Dr. Diaz said students have access to tons of  
414 literature, to be challenged constantly and consistently. Dr. Wai added that children are taught  
415 to take personal responsibility. Dr. Diaz said they invested a lot of resources to create  
416 classroom libraries and there were many examples shown. As a district they want to make  
417 their objectives clear and concise.

418

419 Dr. Wai said that another highlight is that "reading is thinking" and a primary strategy is making  
420 thinking visual. Dr. Diaz said several skills the students learn will be used in PARCC testing, and  
421 students discuss and analyze text in daily conversations with their peers. Another part of the  
422 curriculum is students having time to read in the classroom. During independent time, teachers

423 have one-on-one conferences with students. There are also partnerships, literature circles, and  
424 book clubs.

425

426 Dr. Wai said that staff was actively engaged during readers workshop. The next steps are to  
427 articulate thinking, make thinking visible, teach students how to read, use vertical articulation  
428 across grades, and to learn from one another.

429

430 Ms. Hugo thanked the staff for their work. Dr. Scott said some schools did the equivalent of a  
431 walk-through and in the third year it will be required across the board. Schools have embraced  
432 this and found it to be both useful and insightful. He appreciates the work of the teachers to  
433 make this happen. Dr. Scott congratulated the staff at the Office of Curriculum for their work.  
434 Dr. Wai thanked their coaches and said they cannot do it without them.

435

436 Mr. Limeri said he recently saw a comment about administrators not being able to do enough  
437 walk-throughs and Dr. Wai confirmed it included central office. Mr. Limeri said it is invaluable  
438 for central staff to get into the schools more often. Ms. Brosnahan asked what the feedback  
439 was from students in regards to these walk-throughs. Dr. Wai said they are so engrossed in  
440 their work and are so used to see adults walk through that the students will actually ask the  
441 adults for help if they need it. Dr. Diaz said this is a practice they started two years ago and Ms.  
442 Brosnahan said it is absolutely fabulous.

443

## 444 **VII. ACTION ITEMS**

### 445 **A. Proposed Draft – 2015-2016 School Year Calendar**

446 The School Committee first heard a report on the 2015-2016 School Year calendar at its  
447 meeting on January 6 and voted it for a first reading at its meeting on January 20, 2015. The  
448 School Committee voted approval of the calendar as a second reading this evening.

449

450 Dr. Diaz said that per the request of the town, a PD day was changed from March 3, 2016 to  
451 March 1, 2016 to accommodate folks coming into the schools for the presidential primary  
452 election. They added the HS graduation date and indicated the 185 day. Dr. Diaz said they  
453 have not put a caveat in for the April recess, that states the use of this time should there be  
454 excessive snow days. It is her recommendation that the SC think about a different indicator, as  
455 parents would like to plan and invest in vacation. Dr. Diaz detailed her proposal for three  
456 options on snow-days.

457

458 Mr. Limeri said they are being asked to approve a calendar but they do not have a final decision  
459 if they have to make up snow days. Dr. Scott said the office is giving a list of options for that  
460 footnote and Option 1 is there proposal. Mr. Limeri asked what would happen if they were to  
461 exceed 10 snow days and Dr. Scott said that the law requires they provide an additional option  
462 to go until the end of June and their proposal is to use April vacation, Saturdays, or religious  
463 holidays as secondary options.

464

465 Ms. Brosnahan said the SC should see the results of the snow-day survey for this calendar year,  
466 prior to voting the calendar for next year. Mr. Limeri suggested they vote the calendar without  
467 this caveat in place and make it clear that there is no decision on snow days for the next SY.

468 Ms. Hugo asked about the planning of half days for PD on Thursdays versus Fridays and Dr. Diaz  
469 said parents asked them to identify the same day as often as possible. Due to staff attendance,

470 Dr. Diaz said they prefer to not use Fridays. Ms. Brosnahan said there was an incredible team  
471 of people who put the calendar together.

472

473 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Limeri and seconded by Ms. Connolly that the School**  
474 **Committee vote to approve the 2015-2016 School Year Calendar as presented, with**  
475 **the exception of the caveat about how they will make up snow days and they have**  
476 **not made a decision on how April vacation will be used to make up snow days.**

477 **Discussion: None. Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Limeri, Dr.**  
478 **Silverman and Mr. Stockless voting in favor; Mr. Taggart opposed; 6-1-0.**

479

480 Ms. Hugo said they will review the caveat and will plan a final vote on March 17, 2015. Mr.  
481 Taggart said he wanted to make it clear that he is not opposed to the calendar but he is against  
482 postponing the vote for caveat on the calendar.

483

#### 484 **B. The Education Cooperative**

485 Dr. Gotgart discussed the benefits of continued membership in The Education Cooperative  
486 (TEC) which offers direct support to school communities through cooperative purchasing and  
487 providing support to students in the special education programs. Membership in TEC is on an  
488 annual basis. The assessment for Framingham is \$19,836 and funding is committed in and  
489 supported each year in the Special Education Department budget.

490

491 Dr. Gotgart explained the amount of the new proposal and said the previous recommendation  
492 did not have to do with quality of TEC but the distance of the school. The original numbers did  
493 not make sense. Ms. Hugo said that as a non-member their fees would have been less versus  
494 remaining a member. Dr. Gotgart said he is in complete support and would appreciate the SC  
495 to remain members in the program. Ms. Hugo said that TEC offers PD, internships, and online  
496 courses. The new proposal is a savings of about \$20K. Ms. Hugo thanked Dr. Scott, Dr. Gotgart,  
497 and Ms. Connolly for all of their work.

498

499 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Taggart and seconded by Ms. Connolly that the School**  
500 **Committee vote to approve membership in The Education Cooperative (TEC) for the**  
501 **2015-2016 school year. Discussion: Mr. Limeri said the change is due to TEC deciding**  
502 **they would bill people differently, and rates are based on a flat fee versus the size of**  
503 **the district. Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Limeri, Dr. Silverman,**  
504 **Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in favor; 7-0-0.**

505

### 506 **VIII. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

#### 507 **A. Make-Up Snow Days**

508 Dr. Scott said they have had over 1,700 responses to the survey (900 parents, 589 staff, and 150  
509 students) and they intend to leave it open until Friday. There were some mistakes in regards to  
510 the context of the survey. Dr. Scott said some people were worried it would give bad data but  
511 this has not invalidated or impacted the results. In addition, the survey implied that they made  
512 final decisions when they had not. Dr. Scott said there was discussion about using days in June,  
513 and if additional snow days occur, they discussed taking them in June or during April vacation.

514

515 Dr. Scott recapped the responses. For question 3, 48% said they should use Good Friday as the  
516 first possible make-up day. In terms of adding days in June or using April vacation, this was tied

517 at 23% each. Only 5% indicated they would prefer to use Saturdays. For question 2, on the use  
518 of Good Friday, 78% said this is acceptable and 22% said no. For question 1, the issue of  
519 additional snow days, 40% indicated they should use the remaining April vacation days, 35%  
520 said to extend the SY and not alter calendar, and 25% said they should use Good Friday and/or  
521 Saturdays. Dr. Scott's recommendation is that the Committee should support his  
522 recommendation to use 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> of June as the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> snow days. Dr. Scott said he  
523 would caution the use of Good Friday, due to religious reasons.

524

525 Ms. Brosnahan thanked Dr. Scott for revising the broadband email versus finding the survey  
526 online and asked if someone could take the survey more than once. Dr. Scott said they have  
527 recognized the ability to abuse survey results but they believe these results are valid. Many  
528 teachers have wanted to respond and they do not believe people are skewing the results.

529

530 In regards to the use of Good Friday, Mr. Limeri said it is in two policies that this is a holiday and  
531 requires board approval if it were to be used. He referred to Ms. McKeon's comments about a  
532 survey email to staff in an effort to reach those not based in Framingham. Dr. Scott said they  
533 will take that into advisement. Ms. Connolly asked if they would send a follow up email  
534 reminding the public of the deadline. Dr. Scott said it is on Friday and they expect the number  
535 of responses to be less as the week goes on.

536

537 Mr. Taggart said he is pleased in the amount of people who responded and advised that people  
538 keep in mind the numbers he took down were not in favor of any particular decision. He  
539 estimated that over 50% of people will not get their way, but all will be heard. Ms. Hugo said  
540 she is interested in hearing from parents of HS students who are going on college tours. Dr.  
541 Scott said he has had conversations with high school staff and how to make up days. Dr. Scott  
542 said students can request a waiver and they are not requiring students to change their plans.  
543 Teachers are required to teach and manage the schools. He understands there will be an  
544 inconvenience no matter what they do.

545

546 Dr. Silverman clarified the proposal to hold classes June 25 and 26 and then go to April break,  
547 versus using the rest of June and then going to April. Dr. Scott said the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of June  
548 have a lot of things already planned, such as summer camps and teachers needing time to clear  
549 out their classrooms. Dr. Scott said they will cross this bridge when they come to it. Ms. Hugo  
550 noted this year's calendar said they "may" take April vacation and it was not definitive. She  
551 suggested that the caveat for next year state they "will" use April, so people can plan ahead.

552

553 Ms. Hugo said that on March 3, 2015 they are handing out the Superintendent's evaluation  
554 report. They have set aside next Tuesday, March 10, 2015 from 7-7:30 to discuss the book of  
555 evidence and to give a tutorial on how to fill out the evaluation. It will be due by March 31,  
556 2015. Ms. Hugo said members should bring the book of evidence to the meeting on March 10.  
557 Ms. Hugo said it is confusing and they will have one month to complete the process and rate Dr.  
558 Scott on all 41 indicators. Dr. Scott said they are not required to rate him on all categories but  
559 he is asking that they do, as they will have evidence for each. He will provide a four-page  
560 summary for each major element, at the beginning of the book. Dr. Scott will also include  
561 another draft of his goal items. Ms. Hugo noted that anything other than proficient needs an  
562 explanation.

563

564 Dr. Scott stated that an announcement was made to the HS facility about the letter of  
565 resignation from Principal Adam Goldberg. Elyse Torbert will remain at the interim Principal for  
566 the rest of the year. He discussed this with staff and said he will make a decision at the end of  
567 March as to how they will handle the leadership around the school. He wishes Mr. Goldberg  
568 well and said he reluctantly made this decision. Dr. Scott said he will support Mr. Goldberg in  
569 the days to come.

570

571 **IX. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

572 **A. January 20, 2015 Executive Session**

573

574 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Stockless and seconded by Ms. Brosnahan that the School**  
575 **Committee approve the January 20, 2015 executive session minutes. Discussion:**  
576 **None. Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms. Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Limeri, Dr. Silverman, Mr.**  
577 **Stockless and Mr. Taggart voting in favor; 7-0-0.**

578

579 **X. REPORT OF COMMITTEES**

580 **A. Academic Data Dashboard – Mr. Limeri**

581 No report.

582

583 **B. Buildings & Grounds/Capital Budget Subcommittee – Ms. Connolly**

584 Ms. Connolly said they have not met to date and the next meeting will be scheduled at end of  
585 April or the beginning of May. The discussion of a Skateboard Park will come up at that time.

586

587 **C. Finance Subcommittee – Ms. Hugo**

588 Ms. Hugo said the next meeting is on Tuesday, March 10, 2015 from 6-7 p.m. at the Memorial  
589 Building in Town Hall, Conference Room 2. From 7-7:30 the SC will go over the details of how  
590 to fill out the superintendent evaluation form and at 7:30 they will be in a joint meeting with  
591 the Board of Selectmen (BOS). The next SC meeting is on March 17, 2015 and they will have the  
592 public hearing for the budget. Ms. Hugo would like to add a new meeting date of Monday,  
593 March 30, 2015 to take a preliminary vote on the budget. She asked all members to check their  
594 calendars for availability at 7 p.m.

595

596 **D. District Wellness Committee – Ms. Hugo**

597 Ms. Hugo said there is no change from last month.

598

599 **E. MASC Legislative Liaison – Ms. Hugo**

600 Ms. Hugo said MASC is having a combined meeting with the Suburban Coalition on Thursday,  
601 March 12, 2015 from 7-9 p.m. at the Newton Marriot. The meeting is open to SC members, the  
602 BOS, Town Managers, etc. Senator Jamie Eldridge, State Senator Karen Spilka and Lt. Governor  
603 Karyn Polito will be attending as well. Ms. Hugo said the event is limited to 100 people.

604

605 **F. Policy Subcommittee – Dr. Silverman**

606 No report. Ms. Hugo asked that the Subcommittee schedule another meeting.

607

608 **G. Real Property – Ms. Connolly**

609 No report.

610

611 **H. Suburban Coalition – Mr. Limeri**

612 Mr. Limeri said the report was previously given by Chair Hugo.

613

614 **I. TEC Board of Directors – Ms. Connolly**

615 No report. Ms. Connolly said they plan on meeting in a couple of weeks.

616

617 **J. Delegate Assembly Resolution Task Force – Mr. Stockless**

618 No report. Mr. Stockless said they will be scheduling a meeting soon.

619

620 **K. Communications and Public Relations Task Force – Mr. Stockless**

621 Mr. Stockless said a meeting will be scheduled for Monday, March 16, 2015. They have fielded  
622 a communication survey for parents, staff, and other stakeholders which went out on Monday  
623 night. The survey asks the ways people receive their communications, how they would prefer  
624 to in the future, and looks for ways to improve the current flow. The survey will be closed at  
625 the end of this week. Ms. Hugo suggested that they look at what needs to be updated or  
626 improved on the SC website and see if they would benefit from a Facebook or Twitter account.

627

628 **XI. MEMBER REPORTS**

629 Mr. Taggart said the Salute to Framingham event is on March 26, 2015.

630

631 Ms. Hugo said their entry for the Annual Town Report is due on Friday. Ms. Hugo said she went  
632 to the McAuliffe Space Center yesterday and Senator Spilka, along with two busloads of  
633 senators, attended. They discussed scheduling high school students for out-of-school time.

634

635

636 **XII. BILLS AND PAYROLL**

637 The Chair asked members to remain after the meeting to review and sign warrants.

638

639 **XIII. ADJOURNMENT**

640 The Chair asked for a motion to adjourn.

641

642 **MOTION: Moved by Mr. Taggart and seconded by Ms. Brosnahan that the School**  
643 **Committee adjourn the meeting. Discussion: None. Vote: Ms. Brosnahan, Ms.**  
644 **Connolly, Ms. Hugo, Mr. Limeri, Dr. Silverman, Mr. Stockless and Mr. Taggart voted in**  
645 **favor; 7-0-0.**

646

647 The meeting adjourned at 10:46 p.m.

648

649 *These minutes were approved by the Framingham School Committee at the meeting of March*  
650 *17, 2015.*

651

652 *A copy of the minutes was forwarded to the Office of the Town Clerk on March 18, 2015.*

653

654 **MEETING DOCUMENTS**

655 MEDITECH Donation Letter

656 Hemenway Elementary School - School Improvement Plan 2014-2015 and Presentation

657 Barbieri Elementary School -School Improvement Plan 2014-2015 and Presentation

- 658 Draft FY16 Budget
- 659 Proposed 2015-2016 School Year Calendar
- 660 The Education Cooperative Annual Assessment Fee Letter
- 661 January 20, 2015 Executive Session Minutes